



**MANSLAUGHTER RAP
CHARGE LAID IN
KILLING OUTSIDE
DOWNTOWN BAR** {page 3}

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FORMER BISHOP SAYS
HE'S SORRY** {page 5}



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SWEDEN NOW A
HOT LOCATION
FOR MOVIES {page 16}

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Wednesday, December 21, 2011
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News worth sharing.



‘You ruined my son’s life’

- Woman yells, points finger at 18-year-old man accused of murder as he’s escorted in cuffs to waiting vehicle
- Mother’s 15-year-old son is also accused of first-degree murder in elderly woman’s homicide



**JENNIFER
TAPLIN**
@METRONEWS.CA

An irate mother of a 15-year-old boy charged with first-degree murder berated his co-accused outside the Dartmouth provincial courthouse on Tuesday.

“You remember me?” she yelled at Jamie William Gallant, 18, as he was brought outside surrounded by sheriff officers.

Gallant and the teen are each charged with first-degree murder in the death of Lavinia Campbell, 79.

The mother, who cannot be identified to protect the identity of her son, lambasted Gallant, calling him several names and yelling: “You ruined my son’s life!”

Gallant leaned away from the woman, and seemed visibly affected by her verbal attack.

Three officers blocked the mother from Gallant as he was loaded into a vehicle. They yelled at her to “get back!”

Before the incident, the mother told Metro she wanted to hit Gallant and that she didn’t think Gallant showed any remorse.

The investigation

Police say they don’t expect to be making any other arrests in this case.

“He ruined my son’s life. He’s so f-ing traumatized,” she said.

Gallant appeared briefly at Dartmouth court on charges of first-degree murder, robbery, and break and enter.

Gallant was arrested on Monday after residents in a house in the 200 block of Albro Lake Road woke to find a strange man sleeping there. Police were called and Gallant was arrested.

Police identified him as a suspect in Campbell’s homicide. She was declared dead in her home on Jackson Road in Dartmouth on Friday afternoon.

Gallant is also facing charges of break and enter, and trespass at night in relation to the Albro Lake Road incident.

The 15-year-old was arrested on Sunday and charged with first-degree murder, break and enter and breach of conditions.

● WITH FILES FROM RYAN TAPLIN



► A sheriff’s officer yells at the mother of a 15-year-old charged with first-degree murder to move back outside Dartmouth court on Tuesday. The mother was screaming at Jamie William Gallant, 18, rear, who is also facing a murder charge in the death of Lavinia Campbell.

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Man charged with manslaughter in bar death

A man charged with the death of a 23-year-old man killed outside a downtown Halifax bar last weekend will be in court on Wednesday.

Jason William Whitehead, 30, of Duncans Cove was charged Tuesday with manslaughter in the death of James Philip Mattatall.

Mattatall was struck and hit the ground outside the Toothy Moose Cabaret on Argyle Street shortly before

3 a.m. on Saturday. He died later that day in the hospital.

Soon after, police released the image of a man taken from the bar's surveillance cameras.

On Monday at 2:12 p.m., Whitehead walked into police headquarters and was later charged with manslaughter.

Const. Brian Palmeter with Halifax Regional Police won't say if Whitehead

was the man in the surveillance image, but said police have identified the individual.

Palmeter also wouldn't say if Mattatall was trying to stop a fight but he did say nothing precipitated Mattatall being assaulted.

Whitehead was scheduled to appear in court Tuesday for an arraignment, but his lawyer represented him instead. Whitehead will be back in

court this morning.

Mattatall's funeral is scheduled for Thursday at 1 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Dartmouth. ● JENNIFER TAPLIN



► James Philip Mattatall

Criminal record

► In 2005, James William Whitehead was sentenced to a conditional discharge and probation for theft and resisting arrest.

Woman's fraud goes way back

► Banks, employers, friends all victims to serial fraudster over period of four years



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

A convicted fraudster who scammed strangers and friends alike out of thousands of dollars pleaded guilty to more than 100 charges on Tuesday.

Lesa George, 48, showed little emotion and didn't provide any comment to the court after she pleaded guilty to a multitude of charges including theft, using false pretences, making false documents and fraud.

There were 15 HRM victims and one from Bridgewater from 2006 to 2010. In several cases, she told people she was recovering from cancer treatments and was a lawyer or successful businesswoman. She used these excuses to rent units, and then skipped out on the payments.

She told one friend her bank accounts were frozen by her ex-husband and she needed money for "lawyer insurance" to obtain a

\$5,500 loan she never repaid.

She told another friend she had finished her last cancer treatment and needed money to start up her legal practice as she had a \$72,000 contract with Nova Scotia Power. He paid her more than \$15,000.

In Aug. 2010 she took out an insurance policy for her son Justin's car insurance, but the cheque bounced. Her son had to max out his credit card and line of credit to fix the problem and save himself from a bad mark on his insurance record.

Sentencing

- The Crown and defence agreed to credit George for the six months and 20 days she has spent in remand.
- They have also agreed to a sentence of 25 months in a federal prison. The judge will sentence George on Wednesday morning.



► Lesa George is escorted into Halifax provincial court on Tuesday. George has been convicted of multiple fraud-related charges.

Petty tickets go on sale to general public today

Tickets for Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers at the Halifax Metro Centre on May 31 started creeping onto Kijiji Tuesday as pre-sale tickets for the show sold out.

A Trade Centre Ltd. spokesperson wouldn't say

how many pre-sale tickets were available, but did say there are still plenty of seats left as tickets for the general public go on sale Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Members of The Tom Petty.com Highway Companions Club who joined

before Monday's show date was announced had access to the tickets on Tuesday.

Tickets are being sold through Ticket Atlantic and cost \$206.50, \$183.50 and \$103, including taxes and service charges.

● METRO

\$1,000

By yesterday afternoon, someone had already nabbed two Tom Petty floor tickets — centre in Row 8 — for \$1,000 a pop on Kijiji. Plenty of other tickets were popping up, ranging from \$200 to \$1,000.

Hunter takes gunshot in leg

Police say a 21-year-old man from Clark's Harbour suffered non-life-threatening injuries after being accidentally shot in the leg while out hunting in the area of Villagedale on Tuesday afternoon. Three men were hunting when the victim was shot by a single gun round at 2 p.m., police say. ● METRO

1
news



New Yorkers wishing to be buried in pet cemeteries with their furry friends get good news from the state. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at
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Twitter's digital swear jar aims to turn your salty tweets into charitable donations. More at metronews.ca/video

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UARB officially pens HRM's new boundaries

► Will take effect for the 2012 municipal election next October ► Halifax peninsula split into 2 polling districts

ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

The sweet 16 is set for HRM.

After months of public consultation and staff recommendations, the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board gave its official stamp of approval Tuesday for the districts of a 16-member council, plus one mayor.

The new map, a modified version of council's scenario No. 1, splits the urban area of the Halifax peninsula into two polling districts, and Dartmouth into three.

Cole Harbour will remain intact, a decision Coun. Lorelei Nicoll says represents her community's interests.

"People who have lived in Cole Harbour for many years ... they have a strong sense of community," she said Tuesday. "I've also spoken with representa-



► Lorelei Nicoll

"It gives them that sense of pride and the sense of community they've been longing for."

COUN. LORELEI NICOLL SAYS OF COLE HARBOUR RESIDENTS

tives from the Cherry Brook area and they are very, very pleased."

Sackville has been split into two districts — Upper

and Lower — and for the time being will hold more voting power, despite having fewer eligible voters, to accommodate predicted future growth.

Mayor Peter Kelly said population distribution is a challenge when drawing up a new map of an ever-expanding region.

"That is part of the challenge in terms of responding to what the public wants ... and there will be higher growth areas and that's why they needed to take that into account," Kelly said.

In July, the UARB decided the number of councillors and districts would be cut to 16 from 23.

Municipal staff then came up with two map options, and while public surveys showed opinion was split between the two, the Halifax Regional School Board preferred scenario No. 1, as did HRM staff and the boundary-review panel.

Grand. Menorah



► Michael Pink, left, and Rabbi Mendel Feldman light the menorah at Grand Parade on Tuesday night.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

First candles lit as Hanukkah begins

Hanukkah, the eight-day Jewish holiday also known as the Festival of Lights, started Tuesday night at sunset and continues until Dec. 28.

New funds dug up for historic cemetery

Parks Canada says it will help fund conservation efforts at the Old Burying Ground National Historic Site, known for its concentration of gravestone art from the 18th and early 19th centuries.

The one-hectare cemetery on Barrington Street in downtown Halifax contains more than 1,200 grave markers, including many

1749-1844

► The graveyard served the city from 1749 until it closed in 1844.

for those who fought in the War of 1812. British Maj.-Gen. Robert Ross, who burned Washington in the war, is among those buried in the cemetery.

The historic site attracts more than 10,000 visitors annually, said Don Lordly, director of the Old Burying Ground Foundation.

The Parks Canada cost-sharing funding of up to \$21,500 will support the initial phase of a conservation program focusing on the most at-risk gravestones and tombs, Lordly said.

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► Former bishop Raymond Lahey, right, arrives at the Ottawa Courthouse last May.

Ex-bishop 'sorry' for porn addiction

► Former head of Catholic diocese of Antigonish says addiction to Internet porn against his moral principles

A disgraced Roman Catholic bishop from Nova Scotia who got busted with hundreds of pornographic photos of young boys says he's sorry.

Speaking in public for the first time since he got caught at the Ottawa airport, Raymond Lahey offered an apology to the church and to victims of child pornography.

"I am truly sorry for what I have done," Lahey, looking gaunt and frail, told the court in Ottawa on Tuesday, the second day of

Arrest in 2009

Lahey was arrested at the Ottawa airport in September 2009 after customs authorities found hundreds of pornographic photos of young boys on his laptop and a hand-held device.

his sentencing hearing.

"I know that I've done wrong," he said.

The court heard Lahey's collection included pornographic photos featuring Catholic imagery, including

young boys wearing crucifixes and rosary beads engaged in sex acts, and a man dressed as a monk hitting a young boy's bare buttocks with a paddle. There were also graphic images of bondage and torture.

"They are graphic in the extreme," Crown attorney David Elhadad said of Lahey's collection of child porn.

A psychiatrist has told the court that testing suggests the bishop is not a pedophile.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

STUDY

Region creates more low-wage jobs

Atlantic Canada created nearly four times as many low-wage jobs than it did high-wage positions in the past 10 years, according to a study released Tuesday by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council.

The think-tank defined

low-wage jobs as those paying less than the overall average of \$40,000 annually.

Between 2001 and 2010, the region created 42,000 net new jobs in low-wage industries, with call centres and the retail trade leading the way, the study said.

By contrast, only 11,000 net new jobs in high-wage industries were created, mainly due to public-sector expansion.

Senior economist David Chaundy said that in the private sector, the creation of 14,000 high-

wage jobs in construction was not enough to offset the loss of 28,000 positions in manufacturing.

In Nova Scotia, high-wage jobs increased over the decade, mainly due to public-sector hiring that followed federal cutbacks in the 1990s.

In the private sector, however, the 3,000 high-wage jobs added in financial services in the latter half of the decade were overshadowed by the loss of 9,600 manufacturing jobs since 2001.

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Premier rebuffs Flaherty's stance

- Dexter not buying Tories firm stance on health-funding formula
- Six provinces described meeting with finance minister as one-sided

Premier Darrell Dexter is rejecting the federal government's position that its new health-care funding plan isn't negotiable.

"Absolutely it's negotiable," he said in an interview on Tuesday.

Dexter said it's "profoundly disappointing" that

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty issued what amounted to an ultimatum on health funding on Monday at a meeting of finance

ministers in Victoria.

Jim Flaherty announced that current six-per-cent annual increases will stay in place through 2017, but by



► Premier Darrell Dexter, left, and Finance Minister Graham Steele.

2018 the increases will drop and be tied to the rate of nominal GDP, which is the measure of economic growth including inflation.

Dexter said the federal Conservative government knows the premiers are scheduled to meet in the new year to develop a position on health funding.

The NDP premier said the decision will hurt smaller provinces like Nova Scotia.

"It will essentially divide the country into wealthier provinces that have a better ability to provide health care and those with lesser ability to be able to provide the same services," he added.

Dexter also said there will be another federal election to fight before any changes would take place.

Finance ministers from Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia also blasted the new transfer arrangement.

Nova Scotia's Graham Steele said Ottawa's position was presented as non-negotiable.

Flaherty said the new health spending investments amounts to \$178 billion over five years.

B.C. Finance Minister Kevin Falcon said he's happy with the five-year plan.

"From B.C.'s perspective, we think certainty is good thing," he said.

Others were visibly angry.

"I do not want to stand back quietly," said Manitoba's Stan Struthers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Jim Flaherty.

Program aims to help addicts

A new program will help homeless people with addictions have easier access to counselling and addiction programs.

Capital Health and Shelter Nova Scotia have joined forces to help those who use Metro Turning Point, a shelter in Halifax, deal with addiction-related issues, a news release said on Tuesday.

It said many shelter clients have problems with alcohol, drug use and gambling, which makes it harder for them to find stable employment and housing.

"An overwhelming proportion of the men and women staying in local shelters are suffering with addictions and mental health issues," said Bill

Capital Health

► **Holiday meal.** On the short-term, Capital Health has been collecting new socks and is planning a holiday meal for those using the shelter.

Pratt, executive director of Shelter Nova Scotia in a release.

"With a stronger and more visible shelter-based presence, (Capital Health's Addiction Prevention and Treatment Services) can build relationships with the most vulnerable people in our communities."

The program will also provide advanced training for homeless shelter staff.

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Woman found safe in Enfield area

► Missing woman was reportedly upset over a death in the family

A woman who had been missing in the Enfield area since Sunday was found late on Tuesday afternoon.

The RCMP said ground searchers found Cheryl Parsons of Enfield in a wooded area inside a building across from Highway 102 near the Enfield area at about 4:30 p.m.

Police say she was

found cold and wet and was inside the building for a brief time. She was transferred to a Halifax hospital for an assessment.

The 38-year-old was reported missing by her family, who said the woman had not been seen since she left her home on the Old Horns Settlement Road on foot.

RCMP Staff Sgt. Archie

Thompson says about two dozen members of the Halifax County search-and-rescue ground team and a helicopter from the Department of Natural Resources were looking Tuesday around what's known as the Old Enfield Road. ● METRO



For more local news visit metronews.ca/halifax



► Cheryl Parsons

Crash trial put off until 2012

Fatal crash

► Two Antigonish County teens in the other car died in the collision.

There's been an adjournment in the case of a 30-year-old Nova Scotia man charged in a fatal highway crash last month.

William Fogarty faces two counts of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death.

The Antigonish resident was scheduled to elect the mode of his trial on Tuesday, but it was put

off until the new year.

Fogarty's lawyer is leaving legal aid, so a new legal-aid lawyer from Halifax has been assigned to take over the case, which is scheduled to return to court Feb. 2.

Fogarty was the lone survivor of the two-vehicle crash in late November.

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ENVIRONMENT

Drilling will go ahead

A citizens' group opposed to exploratory drilling near their homes in Cape Breton has failed in its bid to stop the project.

Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau says Petroworth Resources Inc. can proceed with its

plan to drill an exploratory oil well in Lake Ainslie.

The Margaree Environmental Association appealed the approval in October, giving Belliveau 60 days to rule on it.

Belliveau said in a statement he found there's not sufficient evidence to overturn the approval.

Opponents of the well are concerned it could open the door to hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in the area.

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Speeding man loses his ride

A 26-year-old Ontario man is paying the price for his alleged need for speed.

The RCMP say he has been charged with stunt driving after he was clocked driving 183 kilometres per

hour in a 110 km/h zone on Highway 104 near Oxford on Monday afternoon.

Police were unable to stop the vehicle initially, but another traffic member was able to after he was again clocked going 165 km/h.

He is facing a fine of more than \$2,400, and his 2011 Chevrolet Cruze has been impounded for seven days. ● METRO

Like a Good Neighbour

► Energy fund program runs from January to April

► Program helps people heat homes during winter



ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONews.CA

The province will chip in a cool \$400,000 to a Salvation Army program that provides emergency home heating help to those who need it.

Nova Scotia's Municipal Relations Minister John MacDonell said on Tuesday the money helps support people who fall outside some of the programs offered through government.

"(The Salvation Army) does not have to put as many restrictions on how it's applied. There's people who have a need, and they can address it," said MacDonell, who was on hand at the Salvation Army on Gottingen Street in Halifax



► Maj. Doug Hefford, divisional commander for the Maritime Provinces at the Salvation Army, with Municipal Relations Minister John MacDonell on Tuesday.

during the noon hour to present the cheque.

Major Doug Hefford, divisional commander for the Maritime Provinces at the Salvation Army, said he was "blown away" by the funding.

"We will do our best to make sure that people in need will get this help," he said.

The program helps low-income Nova Scotians with all forms of home heating, including fire-

2,000 The number of people who requested help through the Good Neighbour Energy Fund last winter.

wood, coal, oil, propane and electricity. It also offers credits that are applied to a resident's account with an energy supplier.

Nova Scotia has contributed to the fund for four years, giving about \$800,000 in 2008 and about \$400,000 for each of the proceeding years.

MacDonell noted that although the funding comes from taxpayer dollars, he believes constituents would not object to the donation.

Application forms will be available next month at the Salvation Army website or at Salvation Army churches and thrift stores.

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TV dishes out cannibalism

► Dutch presenters to eat a small chunk of one another's fried flesh ► Lawyer: Not expressly illegal

A Dutch broadcaster — renowned for testing the limits of good taste and the law — says it will air a segment in which two presenters engage in cannibalism by eating a small chunk of one another's fried flesh.

A BNN spokesman said Tuesday the men had each had a small piece of tissue surgically removed for the stunt — one from his side and the other from his buttocks.

Presenter Dennis Storm said in a press release that his motivation was a simple desire to know how human flesh tastes.

A teaser clip for the show Guinea Pigs, which

Won an Emmy

► In 2007, BNN aired a fake game show in which people who needed kidney transplants competed on live television for a supposedly terminally ill woman's kidney. The woman was an actress and the show was a hoax, but it was praised by some for raising awareness of the need for donors and went on to win an international Emmy award.

► BNN, which targets a youth audience, has previously aired programs such as Shooting and Swallowing in which presenters used illegal drugs and performed sex acts.

airs Wednesday, shows the two men looking on as a chef fries tiny pieces of meat in a pan.

Gerard Spong, one of the country's best-known criminal defence lawyers, is participating in the program, and was quoted saying that cannibalism is not

expressly illegal in the Netherlands.

However, "cutting and removing flesh from a healthy body without medical reason is illegal," Spong said. "Eating meat obtained in this way is ... punishable."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Winnipeg's Maria Aragon appears in a Gap commercial.

Canadian content ranks high on YouTube

Canadian content ranked high on YouTube's lists of the most-watched videos in 2011 but still could not top the web phenomenon that was Rebecca Black's song Friday.

In second place on Canadian and international lists was Ultimate Dog Tease by Halifax's Andrew Grantham.

Third on Canada's list and eighth internationally was the cover of Lady Gaga's Born This Way by Winnipeg's Maria Aragon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1T

Overall, YouTube said it processed more than one trillion video views over the course of the year.

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Egyptian women want military to step down

- Military issues statement of regret for violations against women
- Clinton slams Egypt's security forces, says revolution dishonoured

Around 10,000 women marched through central Cairo demanding Egypt's ruling military step down Tuesday in an unprecedented show of outrage over soldiers who dragged women by the hair and stomped on them, and stripped one half-naked in the street during a fierce crackdown on activists over the past week.

The dramatic protest, which grew as the women marched from Tahrir Square through downtown, was fuelled by the widely circulated images of abuses of women. Many of the marchers touted the photo of the young woman whose clothes were partially

pulled off by troops, baring her down to her blue bra, as she struggled on the ground.

"Tantawi stripped your women naked, come join us," the crowd chanted to passersby, referring to Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, the head of the military council that has ruled Egypt since the Feb. 11 fall of Hosni Mubarak. "The daughters of Egypt are a red line," they chanted.

"The girl dragged around is just like my daughter," said Um Hosam, a 54-year old woman in traditional black dress and a headscarf at Tuesday's march.

Ringed by a protective

chain of men, the women marched from Tahrir to the Journalists' Syndicate, several blocks away, chanting slogans demanding the military council step down.

Two sisters, Yomna and Tasneem Shams, said they never took part in previous protests because their parents wouldn't allow them. But they happened to be downtown Tuesday and spontaneously joined the women's march.

"No one should ever be beaten for expressing their opinion," Yomna, 19, said. "I am proud I took part in today's protest. I feel I can tell my kids I have done something for them in the future." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Scare tactics

- Many accused the military of intentionally targeting women to scare them and their male relatives from joining protests against the generals.
- Previously, the military has implied women who joined protests were of loose morals.
- In March, soldiers subjected detained female protesters to humiliating tests to determine if they were virgins.
- "They want to break their dignity so that they don't go out and protest," Maha Abdel-Nasser, an engineer who joined the march, said.

► Women march during a protest against the crackdown by authorities on protesters in Cairo Tuesday.



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Topless protesters abducted, beaten

A Ukrainian organization of topless women activists says three of its members were abducted by security officers during a protest against Belarus authoritarian president, beaten, humiliated and left naked in a forest.

The group, called Femen, is widely known in Ukraine and neighbouring countries for its demonstrations in which women bare their breasts to draw attention to an array of causes.

A statement on Femen's website Tuesday says the three were seized by agents of the Belarusian KGB at Minsk's train station on Monday evening, several hours after they held a protest against President Alexander Lukashenko.

Femen said they were blindfolded and driven in a bus to the Gomel region, 200 kilometres southeast

"They were able to telephone and told me they were in awful condition, barely alive."

ANNA GUTSOL, LEADER OF FEMEN

of the capital. There, they were taken to a forest, beaten and forced to undress, doused with oil and threatened with being set on fire. Their captors hacked off their hair with knives and turned them loose in the woods, the group said.

The women were able to walk from the forest to a nearby village, the statement said.

The three had bared their breasts on the steps of the KGB headquarters in Minsk on Monday in a demonstration against Lukashenko on the first anniversary of his re-election.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

KERSTIN JOENSSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



Woman in Berlusconi sex case has baby

ROME. Italian media say the Moroccan woman who is at the centre of a sex scandal with former Premier Silvio Berlusconi has given birth to a girl at a Genoa hospital. Luca Risso, the companion of 19-year-old Karima el-Mahroug, told Sky Italia TV News on Tuesday that mother and daughter are fine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Son mourns Kim Jong Il

PYONGYANG. North Korea's anointed heir Kim Jong Un led a procession of mourners Tuesday to the glass coffin of his father and longtime ruler — a strong indication that a smooth leadership transition was under way in the country.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bird flu virus details on hold

The U.S. government is asking scientific journals and two top-flight research teams not to publish details of controversial studies on the bird flu virus, expressing concerns the information could be put to nefarious use. It made the request on the advice of its biosecurity advisers, the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Arrests made in Montreal Mafia slaying

Six men were arrested Tuesday in connection with the slaying of a powerful Mob boss who once led a New York City crime family.

One of those nabbed was Raynald Desjardins, a dominant figure in Montreal with past ties to the Rizzuto crime family.

Salvatore Montagna, an alleged Mafia boss whom U.S. authorities identified as once having headed New York's notorious Bonanno crime family, was killed near a Montreal-area river on Nov. 24.

Desjardins, 59, and three other people are facing first-degree murder charges in Montagna's death. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

White. Christmas



► Kevin Wesson shovels a path for customers at the Water Still in Amarillo, Texas, on Tuesday morning after an overnight storm covered the region with about an inch of ice and snow. Several major thoroughfares were closed after the storm clipped the northwest part of the state the day before the official start of winter.

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER/AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stormy weather takes States by surprise

Fierce winds and snow that caused fatal accidents and shuttered highways in five states crawled deeper into the central U.S. early Tuesday, with forecasters warning that pre-holiday travel would be difficult if not impossible across the region. Authorities said six people have died as a result of the bad weather.

Ontario researcher develops AIDS vaccine

► University of Western Ontario claims vaccine is the only one of its kind being developed in Canada

► Will be produced in the U.S. ► Canada lacks manufacturing facilities that meet bio-safety requirements

Yong Kang has played a role in developing vaccines for polio and hepatitis B.

Now, the University of Western Ontario researcher has earned approval from the U.S. government to start human clinical trials on what could be a breakthrough vaccination for preventing HIV.

The vaccine — technically named SAV001 — is the result of nearly 20 years worth of work at Western labs.

Kang, a molecular virologist, started studying the

way HIV reproduces after landing in London during the early 1990s.

About 10 years ago, he turned his focus toward developing a vaccine — something that he first thought would be a relatively simple task.

"Turns out, it was a very challenging problem," he said.

With the first of three trial phases set to begin in January, best-case scenario would see Kang's product on the market in five years.

His vaccine attacks the whole virus instead of at-



► University of Western Ontario researcher Yong Kang speaks Tuesday at the university's research park about a vaccine he has developed to prevent HIV-AIDS.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

worked.

The vaccine will be produced at plants in Maryland and Colorado with funding from Sumagen. The Korean-based pharmaceutical company established its Canadian headquarters at Western's research park in 2008 and has pumped about \$50 million into Kang's research.

While HIV has been his key subject for many years, Kang said there's no one thing that drew him to the disease, except maybe the number of people it affects.

"I like to save lives," he said. "I think we can save millions."

● ANGELA MULLINS IN LONDON, ONT.

Trial stages

► **Phase 1: Double-check the safety of the vaccine in humans.** Will involve about 40 HIV-positive volunteers.

► **Phase 2: Measure immune responses.** Will involve about 600 volunteers in the high-risk category for infection.

► **Phase 3: Measure the vaccine's ability to produce results.** Will involve about 6,000 volunteers in the high-risk category for infection.

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tacking bits and pieces, which is the way vaccines in previous HIV trials

Texting untrustworthy: Study

Text messaging may be a more convenient mode of communication, but it may lead people to be more deceitful, according to a new study by UBC researchers.

The study involved 170 student brokers and buyers performing mock stock transactions in one of four ways: face-to-face or video, audio, or text chatting.

Researchers found that participants who received information via text mes-

sage were 95 per cent more likely to report deception than if they had interacted via video; 31 per cent more likely to report deception compared to face-to-face; and 18 per cent more likely to report deception than audio. UBC professor Ronald Centefelli, co-author of the paper, said he was surprised that people's reaction at being lied to differed depending on the medium.

● KENDRA WONG IN VANCOUVER

RYAN REMIOWZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS



CNN host denies role in phone hacking scandal

► Morgan refuses to tell inquiry how he heard McCartney message

A tense and sometimes confrontational Piers Morgan stood his ground before a judge-led inquiry into media ethics Tuesday, denying any connection to illegal phone hacking that has resulted in the closure of the newspaper he once edited and the arrest of friends and former colleagues.

But the celebrity interviewer, who edited the News of the World Sunday

"I'm not going to discuss where I heard it (a message) or who played it to me."

PIERS MORGAN, CNN CELEBRITY INTERVIEWER

and the Daily Mirror, refused to answer questions about the damning link between himself and scandal — his 2006 acknowledgment that he had once listened to a poignant phone message left by former Beatle Paul McCartney for his ex-wife Heather Mills.

Mills has charged that there was no honest way Morgan could have heard the message. Pressed by the inquiry chief as to whether he could say anything to substantiate that he had obtained the message legally, Morgan said he could not.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

► Piers Morgan answers a media inquiry's questions Tuesday via video from the U.S.



High. Inflation



► Grocery prices were up 5.7 per cent in November compared with a year ago as consumers saw double-digit increases for such basics as fresh vegetables and bread, Statistics Canada reported Tuesday.

DANNY JOHNSTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Food, gas prices rise

Statistics Canada reported Tuesday that Canada's annual inflation rate remained high at 2.9 per cent last month as Canadians continued to pay more for food and gasoline than they had 12 months earlier.

Snow Removal in HRM

The season of snow is upon us and the safety of residents is HRM's top priority. In times of inclement weather, HRM crews will be busy working to keep the streets and side-walks in our neighbourhoods free from snow and ice for the protection of all residents.

Plan ahead! Prepare now by securing off-street parking for when the overnight parking ban is in effect. Keeping your vehicles off the street during a winter event will improve conditions for everyone's safety and will help HRM to meet service delivery standards for snow removal.

The winter parking regulations have changed for the 2011-12 season.

- the Parking Ban, which can be implemented anytime from Dec. 15 to March 31, will ONLY be enforced during declared snow and ice operations
- when the parking ban is in effect, it will run from **1 a.m. to 6 a.m.** — ending one hour earlier than in previous years
- weather conditions and clearing operations will determine how long an overnight ban will be in effect

HRM reminds residents that provincial legislation (Section 139 of the Motor Vehicle Act) requires that people remove their vehicles from the streets, day or night, in the event of a snow or ice event. Vehicles obstructing snow removal or winter maintenance operations can be removed at the owner's cost, regardless of time or date.

HRM thanks you for your cooperation and patience. Working together we can have a safe and enjoyable winter season.



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For more information about the winter parking ban, service standards and priority streets



www.halifax.ca/snow



Twitter (hfxgov)



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BlackBerry porn access a concern in Britain

BlackBerry maker Research In Motion has been summoned to a meeting with the United Kingdom's telecommunications regulator amid concern that children are able to view pornography on its smart-phones. The London Telegraph reports that the problem appears to be unique to the BlackBerry, which has become increasingly popular among young users. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

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Dollar



+ 0.79¢
(97.06¢ US)

OIL



+ 3.34¢ US
(\$97.22 US)

Natural gas

\$3.128 US
(+ 3.2¢ US)

Gold

\$1,617.60 US
(+ \$20.90 US)

PRICES AS OF 3:30 PM EST

CEO foresees shakeout in mobile industry

Constant discounts in the mobile-phone industry by new wireless companies can't last and will lead to industry consolidation, predicts the CEO of Wind

Mobile. "Certainly, the promotional activity that's happening now is not sustainable," said Anthony Lacavera.

Mobilicity and Public Mobile launched in the spring of 2010 and Videotron later that fall, bringing more competition to the established players Rogers, Bell and Telus.

Lacavera is predicting that the new entrants will

have to consolidate in 2012 as they get financially squeezed, but he says Wind Mobile won't be on the losing end. But, Public Mobile made a similar prediction, saying at least one of the two other new players — Wind or Mobilicity — would run out of money by the end of this year and Public Mobile would be willing to scoop up one of them. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Home construction helps U.S. economy

- ▶ Every home built creates an average of three jobs a year and generates about \$90,000 in taxes
- ▶ Renting preferred by Americans who lost their jobs

A surge in apartment construction gave home builders more work in November. And permits, a gauge of future construction, rose largely because of a jump in apartment permits.

Some analysts say the gains, though coming off extremely low levels, suggest the depressed housing industry may have reached a turning point.

Economists now say 2011 will be the first year since the Great Recession began in 2007 that home construction will have helped the economy grow. Before this year, the industry endured two of the worst years ever.

"Homebuilding is through the worst and is now steadily improving," said Paul Diggie, a property economist at Capital Economics.

Builders broke ground on a seasonally adjusted an-

Building stats

- ▶ Construction of single-family homes rose 2.3 per cent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 447,000.
- ▶ Apartment construction jumped 32 per cent to a rate of 238,000 units.
- ▶ Single family homes account for about 70 per cent of homebuilding.
- ▶ For the year, work is expected to have begun on 430,000 single-family homes and 185,000 apartments.

nual rate of 685,000 homes in November, a 9.3 per cent jump from October, the government said Tuesday. It's the highest level since April 2010. Still, the rate is far below the 1.2 million homes that economists say would be built each year in a healthy housing market.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tobacco giant sues again over legislation

Philip Morris is challenging the Australian government again over legislation that bans corporate logos and brand imagery on packages of cigarettes.

Subsidiary Philip Morris Limited filed a lawsuit Tuesday with the country's High Court over the legislation passed in November. It requires brand names to be written in a standard font against a drab dark-brown background starting in December 2012.

The New York company says billions of dollars of valuable trademarks and investments are at stake and the government has been unable to show that plain packaging would reduce smoking rates.

Subsidiary Philip Morris Asia already has



served a notice of arbitration under an investment treaty.

Philip Morris International Inc. sells Marlboro and other U.S. brands abroad. It is the world's second-biggest cigarette company after state-controlled China National Tobacco.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Importance of buying local hits home

Over the last few weeks CUPE has rolled out its public information campaign 'My Wages = Your Profits' about **harnessing the buying power of our 18,000 members and their families** who live and work in every corner of the province.

We've taken our message to several chambers of commerce while also promoting the exciting new concept of the **10 per cent shift** with its huge emphasis on **buying local products and services**. In fact, the Halifax Chamber of Commerce – to its credit – featured our campaign in a recent edition of **Business Voice**, its flagship magazine.

It's a public-private partnership of a new nature and is all about **strengthening local economies** to keep main streets from being boarded up.

This message holds particularly true as we see local, family-owned and operated businesses like Margolians and Cavanagh's Food Market in Truro announcing they will be closing their doors for good. This is a huge psychological blow to that community.

Our message to business owners and leaders is a simple one: when it comes right down to it, we all want the same thing for our communities: **good jobs, a healthy and safe environment for our kids to grow up in, and a local economy that can stand on its own two feet!**

This can't be achieved without a strong network of public services, one of the key ingredients in building strong communities.

CUPE Nova Scotia
www.ns.cupe.ca



RIP FEARLESS HITCHENS

JUST SAYIN'...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO



22, to name a couple. Hitchens died last week, and an impressive array of pundits have tried to punch above their weight and write about Hitchens as well as Hitchens wrote about himself.

The results have been admirable, although we could do without the manly memoirs from those who tried to match the master drink for drink and stay on their barstools. Typical of this school is Graydon Carter, the editor of Vanity Fair, who wrote that after having more drinks at lunch than most of us have in a lifetime at lunch, they stumbled back to the office and Hitchens "produced a 1,000-word column of near perfection in under half an hour."

"When you're a writer, intellectual freedom is your most precious resource. Unless you write the truth (as you know it, in your heart) with complete fearlessness, you are producing weasel poop."

though he was writing to you and to you alone." We all had a front row seat to The Show thanks to Hitchens, who would tackle any topic on our behalf, from Mother Teresa, whom he detested as the benign, loving face of oppression, to Holocaust denier David Irving, tolerating him and his odious outlook in the name of intellectual freedom.

When you're a writer, intellectual freedom is your most precious resource. Unless you write the truth (as you know it, in your heart) with complete fearlessness, you are producing weasel poop. At best.

Hitchens was completely fearless. He proved it time and again, but most of all when he turned his back on the left to support the U.S. invasion of Iraq, arguing that "Islamofascism" is the greatest threat of our time. It started when the Ayatollah of Iran put a fatwah (a kind of assassination contract with religious trappings) on his good friend Salman Rushdie for writing The Satanic Verses.

If it weren't three sentences long, this quote about the fatwah from his memoir should be written on his tomb: "It was, if I can phrase it like this, a matter of everything I hated versus everything I loved. In the hate column: dictatorship, religion, stupidity, demagoguery, censorship, bullying and intimidation. In the love column: literature, irony, humour, the individual and the defence of free expression."

Christopher Hitchens, wherever you are, let 'er RIP.

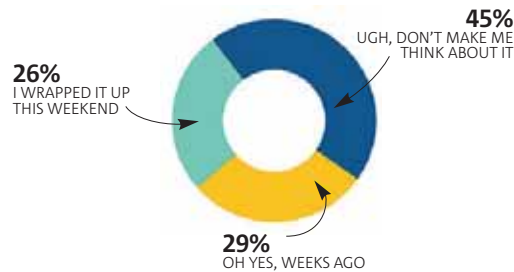
Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

It's tough, writing an appreciation of Christopher Hitchens, the brilliant essayist and author of God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything and the memoir Hitch



Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Five days left. Have you finished your shopping?



Local tweets



@MSmith Bubbles: @kewi75: put a word in to

Tom Petty's people for you to do a duet of Liquor & Whores in Halifax." You put a word in??

@extremekinger: Just got 6 tickets to Tom Petty in Halifax! The waiting is the hardest part...

@realTomMurphy: If the Tom Petty concert in #Halifax sells out at \$200/ticket, apparently the people in this city can afford a stadium after all.

@SteveMac03: Has floor tickets for Tom Petty #halifax #tompetty #novascotia

@flinger18: Squeals of glee!! Going to #Halifax @tompetty

@WhoToTheWhatNow: @ThatKevinSmith Just heard you may be returning to #Halifax in February! I'm gonna use my Jedi powers to make it happen! #usetheforce

@jonholio: The lady who bought my house kindly emailed me to tell me that some of my mail was delivered there. Still some decent people in #Halifax.

Hang in there, bug!



Fly battles rain to win contest

WILDLIFE. It looks like one of those classic, endearing "Hang in there, baby" motivational posters. This dragonfly in Indonesia's Riau Islands seems to cling on to a reed to brave a torrent of rain. The photo by Shikhei Goh beat 20,000 entries to win the 2011 National Geographic Photography Contest. **MWN**



"It suddenly rained, but the lighting was just superb. The result caused me to be overjoyed."

SHIKHEI GOH, PHOTOGRAPHER

Judges' views

Amy Toensing: "When I look at it, I want to say, 'Hold on tight, little buddy!'"

Peter Essick: "It's rare indeed to see a photograph that causes the viewer to feel a bond with a member of the animal world seemingly, but maybe not, so unlike our own."



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2
scene

A Swedish invasion

► The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo has spurred a demand for Scandinavian backdrops in new films ► But that's nothing new to Hollywood ► Sweden has always been a cinema focal point

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



These days it seems there are almost as many movies set in Sweden as there are Billy bookshelves in college dorms. The original Girl with the Dragon Tattoo books and movie series kicked off a thirst for all things Scandinavian.

Headhunters, a Norwegian noir, was a big hit recently at the Toronto International Film Festival and Let the Right One In placed vampires against a snowy, stark white Swedish backdrop.

This weekend the Americanized version of Girl With the Dragon Tattoo opens, starring Daniel Craig and Rooney Mara in the roles Swedish superstars Michael Nyqvist and Noomi Repace made famous. Shot in Sweden, the movie promises open landscapes, the crunch of snow underfoot and even the odd fjord.

Suddenly, it seems people are hungry for movies from Sweden, Norway and Denmark, but there has always been a smorgasbord of cinema around that part of the world.

No discussion of Scandi-



► The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo has set off a demand for all things Scandinavian.

navian cinema can be complete without mentioning Ingmar Bergman. Woody Allen named him "the greatest film artist since the invention of the motion picture camera," and Francis Ford Coppola called him "my all-time favourite."

If you haven't seen The Seventh Seal or Wild Strawberries, you should; they are both classics. But you have undoubtedly seen movies inspired by or parodying Bergman's

work.

His famous Seventh Seal scene of Death playing chess has been mimicked in everything from Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey to Woody Allen's play Death Knocks, which features a man playing gin rummy with Death.

More recently a Norwegian mockumentary called Troll Hunter earned praise from critics all over the world. One writer said this Blair-Witch-style story of cave-dwelling trolls and

the government-sponsored hunters who track them was "destined to be a classic of its kind."

Another said, "You'll want to catch this clever movie before Hollywood ruins everything with a dumb remake."

Denmark has a thriving film industry. Since 1956 they've entered 40 flicks for Best Foreign Film consideration at the Academy Awards.

At last year's Oscars Susanne Bier's drama In a

Better World beat Canada's entry Incendies to take home Best Foreign Film.

The best-known Danish films of recent years have been made by Lars von Trier, the distinctive and controversial director of Breaking the Waves and this year's Melancholia. As well known for his depressed behaviour as he is for his films, Von Trier once said, "Basically, I'm afraid of everything in life, except filmmaking."

Not dead



False reports of Jon Bon Jovi's death spread online after a fake news release surfaced on social media sites. Bon Jovi released a statement Tuesday showing that he is very much still alive.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Movie reviews

See it twice 🌟🌟🌟🌟 | See it now 🌟🌟🌟 Worth watching 🌟🌟 | Yawn 🌟 | Don't bother 🌟

THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN

Genre: Drama

Director: Steven Spielberg

🌟🌟🌟

Based on three of Hergé's original Tintin books, The Adventures of Tintin is a long series of clues strung together to form the story and connect the action scenes.

But despite the well-loved characters and Andy Serkis's brilliant work, this is a Steven Spielberg movie through and through.



Using a mix of motion capture and CGI he is finally able to recreate the giant set pieces he has always

been fond of in boldface.

The motorcycle chase through a North African town, a plane crash in the desert and a swashbuckling flashback are all spectacular, exhilarating sequences, but they feel more Spielbergian than Tintin-ian.

I'm not sure if Hergé purists will appreciate the director's vision imposed on their beloved characters but for everyone else The Adventures of Tintin is good, escapist fun.

🌟 RICHARD CROUSE

Halifax

► **BAYERS LAKE:** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:40; 3-D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:30-7:10-10:05; IMAX (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:2-15:4-30

► **PARK LANE:** (STC) Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:15-4:7-10-9:55

► **TRURO:** (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:30; 3-D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 7-9:30

► **BRIDGEWATER:** (STC) Wed-Thu 3:15-6:40-9:05



Judge shifts legal, other expenses from executors of Michael Jackson's estate

Lady and the Trump

► Just how has Lady Gaga become the global sensation she is today? Why, taste-maker Donald Trump, of course

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



Toupeed reality TV star Donald Trump says because Lady Gaga performed at the 2008 Miss Universe pageant, which Trump owns, he should get all of the credit for her success. "We always have an en-

tertainer," he says.

"We've had a lot of great people, and you don't pay them anything because it's one of the biggest audiences and my people told me, 'Nobody knows who she is but there's this woman with good talent named Lady Gaga.'"

And I said, 'Give me a break.' And then they said, 'She's really good.' So I said, 'I don't care, if you like her, put her on.'"

Interesting. And here we always thought it was the



► Donald Trump

gays who propelled Lady Gaga to international star-



► Lady Gaga

I ain't got you babe: Chaz and his fiancée split

After featuring their tear-filled proposal on his reality series, Being Chaz, Chaz Bono and Jennifer Elia have split up, calling off their engagement, according to TMZ.

"They leave this relationship with great love, respect and affection

toward one another.

No further amplification will be forthcoming and they ask that you respect their privacy at this time," says a rep for the former Dancing with the Stars contestant.

● METRO



► Jennifer Elia, left, and Chaz Bono

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THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

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3 life

Travel in brief



Eight casinos on the Las Vegas Strip are planning a co-ordinated fireworks show as part of Sin City's annual New Year's Eve celebration. Officials said Wednesday that more than 56,000 effects will light up the sky as part of a nearly nine-minute show featuring a medley of songs including LMFAO's Party Rock Anthem. Eight casinos will be used as firing locations: Tropicana Las Vegas, MGM Grand, Aria, Planet Hollywood, Caesars Palace, Treasure Island, the Venetian and the Stratosphere. Tourism officials at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority say they expect 315,000 people to celebrate the milestone in Las Vegas. Fremont Street Experience and Fremont Street East also plan celebrations downtown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Cancun rated cheapest Caribbean destination, Saint Barthelemy the priciest

► Tired of the dreariness of winter and in need of some sunshine? ► Welcome to Mexico's seaside town of Puerto Vallarta ► There's more than just sunny days in this port town



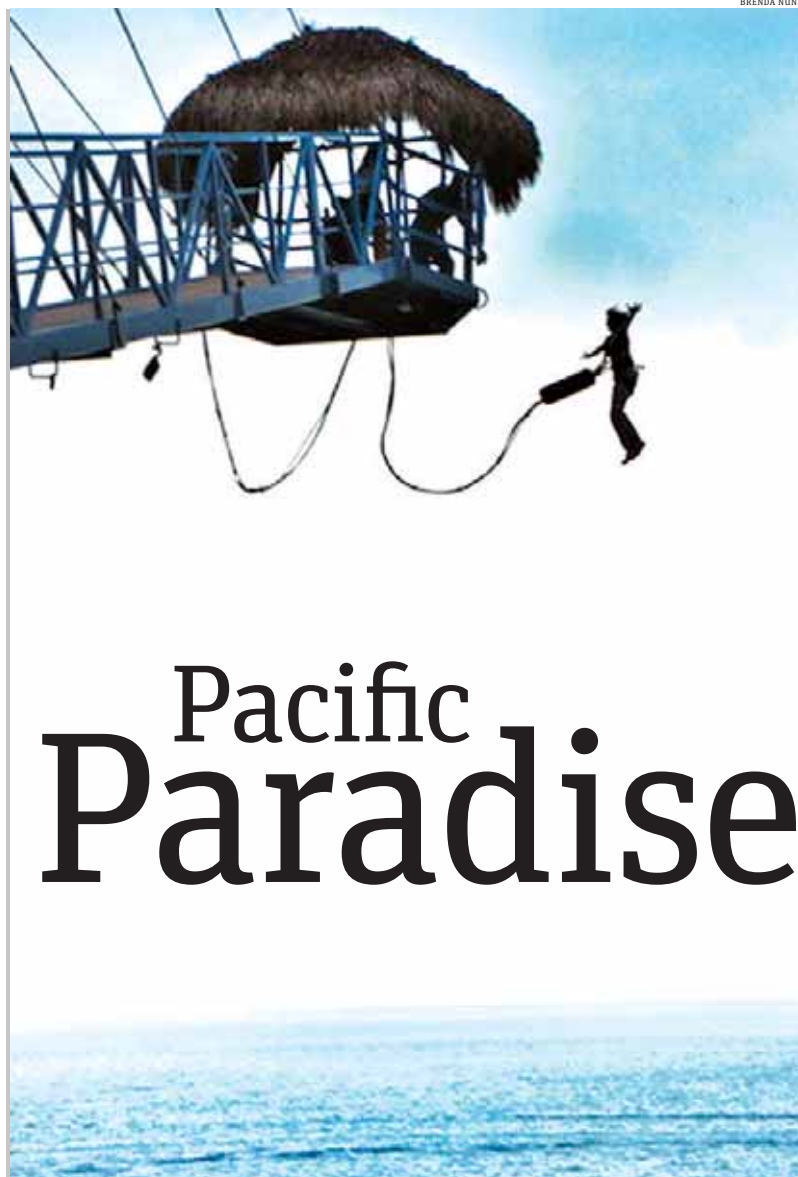
BRENDA NÚÑEZ
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

'Vallarta', as locals call it, is a quaint village nestled in Banderas Bay that opens out into the Pacific Ocean. One of Mexico's most cosmopolitan cities, it's also the country's gay capital. Blessed with year round warm temperatures, the sparkling seaside town is a breath of fresh air compared to the capital Mexico City.

A hot spot for sea and art lovers, there is beauty in everything you see from the red tiled houses, cobble streets and ocean views. Although a major tourist destination, Vallarta has managed to stay clear of clichés and remains in essence a quiet fishing village.

First time?

On top of the endless stretch of pristine coastline, there are plenty of outdoor activities to keep you busy here. Go horseback riding along the coast, deep sea diving or fishing or for a jeep ride through the jungle. Bring some binoculars with you so that you can do a bit of bird watching at the same time. If you're brave enough, go bungee jumping into the ocean (vallarta-adventures.com). Nature lovers will enjoy a trip to the Botanical Gardens (vbgardens.org), where they will find out more about local flowers including orchids. Or go for a walk in the chocolate, coffee and vanilla garden. Spend a relaxing morning playing golf at Punta Mita Golf club at the Four Season's Hotel (fourseasons.com) or simply sunbathe at Playa Camarones (Shrimp Beach).



BRENDA NÚÑEZ

Pacific Paradise

Been there before?

Soak up the sun at Playa Los Muertos beach, a favourite of the gay scene, or head to Mismaloya, where you can walk along the same stretch of sand where Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton filmed The Night of the Iguana in 1964.

Discover the area's unique art and culture, an integral part of daily life that isn't just limited to Vallarta's galleries but reflected in every aspect of local architecture.

The seafront walkway is adorned with beauti-



BRENDA NÚÑEZ

► Soaking up the sun

ful sculptures: highlights include the famous Arcos arches or the Caballito sculpture of a boy on the back of a seahorse.

If you want to learn

more about the local Huichol culture, visit Nueva Valle, in the neighbouring state of Nayarit.

There you can buy beautifully crafted jewelry and leather bags.

Shop

The best place to buy local souvenirs is the historic Rio Cuale Market near the Cuale River. Here you will find plenty of Huichol culture arts and crafts as well as mainstream beach dresses and wrestling masks. Shopping malls, including Galerías Vallarta Marítima and the Plaza Peninsula, are great for getting more generic souvenirs. If it's jewelry and antiques you're after, go for a stroll along the Malecón boardwalk.



BRENDA NÚÑEZ

► Market crafts

Eat and drink!

For a traditional breakfast, head to Mama Rosa (mamarosavallarta.com). Their refried beans, empanadas and café de olla (cinnamon coffee) are the perfect start to the day. El Brujo is another great option, especially if you're a fan of molcajetes (steak, onions and white cheese in pepper sauce served with flour tortilla, beans and guacamole). Restaurant La Leche, owned by chef Alfonso Cadena (lalecherestaurant.com) is perfect for a late lunch or dinner. The decor is quirky; milk cans adorn the shelves and the food is always a surprise with a new menu is posted every night. Have a shot of tequila at La Casa del Tequila, which has more than 50 flavours to choose from.

A sweet ending to the holidays

► This unique upside down cake is a nice escape from your typical frosted Christmas treats

EMILY RICHARDS



Birch Syrup Pear Upside Down Cake

► This recipe serves 12.

HOLIDAY HELPER

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Preparation:

- 1 Topping: In saucepan, heat birch syrup, brown sugar over medium-high heat until bubbling. Boil gently 1 min., stirring. Pour into greased 9-inch (23 cm) cake pan. Sprinkle with pecans.
- 2 Peel, quarter and core pears. Slice into about ¼ inch (5 mm) thick slices, lengthwise. Arrange over maple mix in concentric circles overlapping each other slightly. Set aside.
- 3 In bowl, beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beat-

Ingredients:

- ½ cup (125 mL) butter, softened
 - ¾ cup (175 mL) packed brown sugar
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 tbsp (15 mL) vanilla
 - 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) all-purpose flour
 - 1 tsp (5 mL) ground cardamom or cinnamon
 - 1 tsp (5 mL) baking powder
 - ½ tsp (2 mL) baking soda
 - Pinch salt
 - ½ cup (125 mL) sour cream
- Pear Topping:**
- ½ cup (75 mL) pure birch syrup
 - ¼ cup (50 mL) packed brown sugar
 - ¼ cup (50 mL) chopped toasted pecans
 - 3 ripe Bosc or Bartlett pears

ing after each. Beat in vanilla. In another bowl, combine flour, cardamom, baking powder, soda and salt. Alternately, stir flour mix and sour cream into butter mix making 3 additions of flour and 2 of sour cream until combined.

- 4 Scrape into cake pan over pears. Smooth batter carefully without moving

pears. Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven 40 mins. or until tester inserted in centre comes out clean. Let cool in pan 20 mins. Invert cake pan onto serving plate and turn over, removing cake pan. Scrape any pear from pan onto cake. **EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR & TV CHEF. EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA**

Drink of the week

Christmas Coffee

- 1 oz Bailey's Mint Chocolate
- .25 oz Frangelico
- .25 oz Kahlua
- Hot coffee

Stir everything with freshly brewed coffee in a large, tempered glass. Top with whipped cream — homemade tastes better, but the canned stuff will look prettier — and sprinkle with shaved dark chocolate and candy cane crumble. Replace the last two liqueurs with Irish whiskey if the sun's already set. **JOE HOWELL, TORONTO BARTENDER**



A delicious and classic party offering

► While most people opt for a store-bought version, French Onion Dip isn't difficult to make from scratch

Preparation:

- 1 In a large skillet heat olive oil over medium heat. Add onions, shallots, garlic, salt and pepper and cook for 15 to 18 minutes, stirring occasionally or until onions are browned and caramelized. If garlic begins to brown too much, add a few tablespoons of water and continue cooking.
- 2 Let mixture cool for 10 minutes, then transfer to a food processor and puree until smooth. Add cottage cheese, thyme and marjoram. Purée again until smooth. Stir in chopped chives.
- 3 Serve or cover and refrigerate for at least an hour for flavours to meld. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Ingredients:

- 30 mL (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 large sweet onions, sliced
- 4 shallots, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 5 mL (1 tsp) salt
- 2 mL (1/2 tsp) freshly

- ground black pepper
- 1 tub (500 g) low-fat cottage cheese
- 15 mL (1 tbsp) chopped fresh thyme
- 10 mL (2 tsp) chopped fresh marjoram
- 15 mL (1 tbsp) chopped fresh chives



► This recipe serves 16.

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Top 5: December 20th

- 5 Danny Fernandes Ft Belly Hit Me Up
- 4 LMFAO Sexy and I Know It
- 3 Rihanna You Da One
- 2 Marianas Trench Fallout
- 1 Katy Perry The One That Got Away

Weeknights at 9
Tessa counts down
the HOTTEST 5
songs that day!



1013THEBOUNCE.COM

Mix learning with living it up

► One student weighs in on the importance of balancing work and play while piecing through post-secondary

STUDENT VOICE

AYSHA KHALIQ TALENTEGG.CA

I moved to Nova Scotia to attend school full-time. Cape Breton University (CBU) has an awesome business school where I didn't

only study and learn, but I also enjoyed my life more than I ever had before.

There are many reasons why I call my time there

the best days of my life. If I have to explain in a few lines, what I loved the most was the super friendly learning environment,



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► Aysha Khaliq believes schools should have more programs in place to help students assess what direction they'd like to head in after graduation.

highly qualified teachers with a lot of experience, the library — such a good source of research in physical and electronic forms, the sports complex with many free-of-cost facilities and last but not least my residence.

When I moved to Cape Breton, I did not know a single person there. In the beginning, I was quite concerned what my life would be like there without family and friends.

However, surprisingly, when I left the university, I knew many people from security guards, café workers, librarians to professors and students and I was filled with good memories from all of them. Now I am very blessed to have a big circle of wonderful family and friends on the other side of Canada too.

In the beginning of my last semester, I started applying for different jobs and I focused on the specific industry I was interested in.

Since I had started looking early, I had enough time

to find the right place in a specific industry and find the right job.

In October 2010, I graduated with an MBA and the Valedictorian designation from Cape Breton University and a few job offers.

I believe schools should have a special program in the last two semesters of graduate studies in order to help students figure out what they want to do in the future. If students have the right plan from the start, it helps them to get into the right industry too.

In general, my advice for students would be that our university days won't come back. We should have as much fun as we can. However, at the same time opportunity won't knock on the door again and again.

We should try to balance getting good grades, building networks, and enjoying our time.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

Where Aysha is now

Before my graduation, I was offered a few positions. I took my time making a decision and kept the idea of career advancement in my mind. Finally, I accepted a personal banking officer position at Scotiabank.

Also, before my graduation, I started to look for different volunteer roles in different organizations. I accepted a board member role at the Millwoods Family Resource Center.

I also wanted to improve my public speaking and leadership skills, so I joined Toastmasters in 2010. Since then, I have been working on getting the Competent Communicator and Competent Leadership certifications.

As well, I am studying for a Personal Financial Planner (PFP) certification in order to advance my career at Scotiabank.

A coach 'caught in a storm'

► Carbonneau says Cunneynworth must learn French 'to some extent' to survive as Habs coach

Guy Carbonneau can feel for Randy Cunneynworth, but he also believes the new coach of the Montreal Canadiens should learn to speak French as quickly as he can.

"He's living a dream, which is doing what he loves for one of the best franchises in the NHL, and he's caught in a storm," said Carbonneau, a former Canadiens captain and coach. "It's premature. You have to give him a chance to show what he can do and if he's willing to learn."

"But there's no doubt in my mind that the coach of the Montreal Canadiens has to speak both languages, at least to some extent."

The Toronto-born Cunneynworth, the first unilingual English coach the club has had since Al MacNeil in 1970-71, landed in a swirl of controversy when he was made interim head coach after the firing of Jacques Martin on Saturday.

The language debate was still raging Wednesday.

Many see the Canadiens as not only a hockey team, but as an institution representing the French-Canadian people, and that its coach should speak the language of the majority of its fans.

Canadiens legend and former general manager Serge Savard blasted the move, saying the team "belongs to the people." Team owner Geoff Molson was moved to issue a statement



► The Canadiens lost 3-2 to the Bruins in Boston in Randy Cunneynworth's second game as head coach on Monday night

that underlined the job is "interim" and that next season there will be a French-speaking coach, whether it is Cunneynworth or someone else.

Cunneynworth has said he hopes to learn French.

"It's one thing to say he's willing to learn it and another to actually learn it," said Carbonneau. "I don't

know where learning French is going to fit in his schedule."

That the struggling team has lost its first two games under Cunneynworth has not helped his cause, and the French-language Le Journal de Montreal made sure he understood by printing its front-page headline in English: "An-

other Loss For Cunneynworth" it read.

Cunneynworth is a highly regarded coaching prospect who moved to Montreal as an assistant coach after guiding its Hamilton farm club to a strong 2010-11 campaign.

Some suggested Quebecers would be more willing to accept an English-speak-

French on the bench

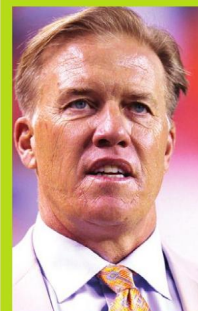
Randy Cunneynworth is the first unilingual coach of the Montreal Canadiens since Al MacNeil in 1970-71.

After McNeil, a powerhouse Canadiens team was coached for eight years by Scotty Bowman, who spoke so-so-French, a bit better than Bob Berry, who coached from 1981 to 1984. After that, an unbroken line of fluent French speakers went from Jacques Lemaire to Jean Perron, Pat Burns, Jacques Demers, Jacques Laperriere (one game), Mario Tremblay, Alain Vigneault, Michel Therrien, Claude Julien, Guy Carbonneau and Jacques Martin, with two short terms for the bilingual Bob Gainey. The 40-year string ends with Randy Cunneynworth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4
sports

Quoted



"Tim Tebow's not going anywhere. I mean, he's going to be a Bronco and we're going to do everything we can and hopefully he's that guy."

DENVER BRONCOS BOSS JOHN ELWAY OFFERS A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR QUARTERBACK TIM TEBOW.

Sutter set to take over as Kings coach

Darryl Sutter will be the Los Angeles Kings' next head coach, general manager Dean Lombardi announced Tuesday.

Sutter will assume his duties beginning with practice Wednesday, after which the club will hold a news conference to introduce him. He takes over a Kings team (15-14-4) that entered Tuesday three points out of a playoff spot in the Western Conference with the second-fewest goals in the league — just



► Darryl Sutter at the 2009 NHL draft in Montreal.

three more than the New York Islanders. The Kings are currently riding a streak of 12 consecutive games in

which they've scored no more than two goals in regulation.

The Kings, whose next

game is Thursday night in L.A. against the struggling Anaheim Ducks, fired coach Terry Murray on Dec. 12 in Boston before starting a four-game road trip. Assistant coach John Stevens was 2-2 on an interim basis.

It's the ninth time in franchise history the Kings will finish a season with a different coach than the one they started with. They made the playoffs on three of those occasions.

Sutter, 53, has a career regular-season record of

409-320-131 and 47-54 mark in the playoffs. He has won division titles as coach in Chicago, San Jose and Calgary.

He also was general manager of the Flames from the 2003-04 season until he resigned Dec. 28, 2010, with the team sitting last in the Western Conference.

Sutter is one of nine head coaches in NHL history to lead at least three different clubs to 100 wins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

10

Darryl Sutter-coached teams have made the playoffs in 10 of his 12 seasons on the bench, including in 2004 when his Calgary Flames made the Stanley Cup final.

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RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE



► Rainmen point guard Taliek Brown battles against the Moncton Miracles at the Metro Centre earlier this season.

NBL struggling with ticket sales

► Commissioner says it's been 'a huge uphill battle' ► Rainmen and London Lightning are league's top sellers

Canada's fledgling National Basketball League is struggling at the box office, but league commissioner John Kennedy believes the trouble at the turnstile is normal growing pains for any startup endeavour.

Kennedy said no team is in imminent danger of folding, and in fact he hopes to expand the league by adding several franchises in Ontario.

Still, his goal is to draw 4,000 to 5,000 fans a game, and the majority of the seven teams are well below that, averaging under 2,000 fans per game in the NBL's inaugural season. The Oshawa Power is drawing the smallest crowds at just under 700 fans a night.

"We're a long way from (his attendance target)," Kennedy said on a conference call Tuesday. "It's as much based on hopes and expectations than it is in reality currently."

Kennedy said he's perplexed by the troubles in Oshawa, Ont., considering the strong basketball culture in the area.

"But they admit (they're struggling), they know it, they're working hard," Kennedy said of the club. "At the end of the season we're going to evaluate the situation there and increase those efforts and get a better start on next season."

Kennedy doesn't see the Power, second last in the league at 6-11, as being in danger of folding or relocating.

"I'm going to work to make sure this is a success," Kennedy said. "And it may mean that there are some changes but nobody's going away any time soon, not if we can do anything about it."

Kennedy, who was hired last month as the league's first commissioner, admits it's been a tough slog.

"It's a competitive marketplace out there where hockey is our game, so we've got a huge uphill

"We're going to do our best to see to it that no franchise folds, this season or next or into the future."

NBL OF CANADA COMMISSIONER
JOHN KENNEDY

Top attendance in NBL of Canada

Commissioner John Kennedy said the London Lightning and Halifax Rainmen are the strongest franchise in the NBL of Canada.

► The NBL-leading Lightning have averaged 2,500 fans a game and drew 3,400 on opening night.

battle," said Kennedy. "There are some mornings I feel like Sisyphus (the Greek mythological figure condemned to forever push a rock up a hill). ... The rock is always at the bottom of the hill."


Kennedy would like to expand to between eight and 10 teams in the near future, and is looking at several potential Ontario sites including Kitchener-Waterloo, Windsor, Hamilton, and Kingston.

The NBL also has franchises in Halifax, Quebec City, Saint John, Summerside, P.E.I., London, Ont., and Moncton which is last in the league at 2-12.

When Kennedy, a Los Angeles-based sports executive who was born in Windsor, Ont., was asked why he took the job of running the rookie league, he said because it's a "blank sheet of paper."

"We can help create something to help develop Canadian players and the Canadian basketball scene where one didn't exist before," he said. "It's the fun of the challenge, the hunt, the chase and the accomplishment."


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Cargo

The interior has been given the update treatment, providing a slightly enlarged passenger area but at the expense of slightly reduced cargo volume.

This time, though, maximizing the load floor is a snap with the new fold-down rear seat that operates by flipping a pair of levers located just inside the tailgate.

Fuel consumption

Fuel consumption has improved to 9.0 l/100 km city and 6.4 highway for front-wheel-drive models (formerly 10.5/7.3). All-wheel-drive models are rated at 9.2 l/100 km city and 6.6 highway (previously 10.1/7.5).

The improvements are attributed to a new anti-friction coating for the pistons, a faster-activating on-demand AWD system as well as a revised five-speed automatic transmission.

Engine, steering

Getting CR-V owners to work, the gym, or the daycare is a revised 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine that makes 185 horsepower and 163 pound-feet of torque, which is slightly more than the previous 2.4.

From observation, Honda engineers have largely succeeded at smoothing out the CR-V's ride and creating a quieter interior. On the down side, the newly installed "Motion-Adaptive" electric power-assisted steering (called EPAS) feels a bit numb, especially when driving straight down the highway.



Honda CR-V: Resculpted not recreated



MALCOLM GUNN
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Calling all cool moms; your new fourth-generation Honda CR-V chariot awaits.

Of course Honda's popular tall wagon isn't just for active women with toddlers in tow, but according

to the automaker, the "cool moms" segment makes up, or significantly influences, the largest portion of CR-V buyers. They, along with others seeking a roomy ride with all-weather, all-road capability, will appreciate the vehicle's car-like behaviour and economical oper-

ation.

CR-V devotees will not easily spot the latest version of Honda's compact "cute ute" since it closely mirrors the outgoing version in all key exterior dimensions.

What's more, the general shape remains only moderately tinkered-with,

including updated nose and tail section plus a more dramatically shaped rear roof pillar that introduces a bit more drama to the vehicle's styling. Honda claims that the new CR-V's shape, along with modifications to the undercarriage to increase air flow, has reduced fuel-rob-

bing aerodynamic drag by eight per cent.

Honda seems content with not rocking the boat with its latest CR-V, perhaps sensing that the time isn't quite right to introduce a totally clean-sheet design.

The cool-mom crowd would likely agree.

5 drive



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metro

Hyundai XG delivered affordable luxury

SECOND GEAR



JUSTIN PRITCHARD
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Like the Azera and Genesis that came after it, the Hyundai XG350 aimed to give shoppers a cut-price taste of the automotive high-life.

Sure, it's a cheap Korean knock-off luxury car, but in a good way.

Hyundai created a luxurious atmosphere, installed plenty of hardware and priced the entire thing for the relative masses.

2001-2005 Hyundai XG350



Engine

Look for a 3.5-litre V-6 engine, automatic transmission and front-wheel drive in all models — other than the 2001.

For that year, the car was called the XG300, due to its smaller 3-litre, 190-horsepower V-6.



What owners like

Owners like the XG's ride, interior styling, comfort levels and generous equipment list. Few reported issues with interior roominess or trunk space. Styling was also typically rated highly.



What owners dislike

Common complaints include road noise, a dim instrument panel and sub-par audio components.

Fuel mileage is also rated somewhat poorly.



Common issues

Several owners report niggling electronic and sensor-related issues, so ensure all accessories function as expected and look for any "Check Engine" or "Airbag/SRS" lights in the instrument cluster.

Note the engine's performance, particularly when accelerating from a stop. Some owners report inconsistent responses from the throttle, ranging from "lurching" off the line to a lack of power. This may be accompanied by trouble codes or a check-engine light.

Verdict

The main draw to the XG350 as a used car should be its price. Have the vehicle inspected by a Hyundai mechanic and spend a bit of the cost savings on the extended warranty, if available.

If you don't want one of these deals, then you just don't want a deal!

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AUTO PILOT



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It's perfectly fine that the vehicle's main role during the holidays is helping us get to where we want to be, like with our families, or extremely far away from our families where there is also a good beach.

We don't need to start stringing lights on every Ford Taurus, or going with eggnog-flavoured 5W30 engine oil over the holidays.

That would be forcing it

if you ask me — like attaching fake antlers to a cat.

Like everybody, my most vivid memories of driving to a family Christmas event occurred when I was a kid, when Christmas was feverishly crucial.

Unfortunately the drives that stick out the most were the long ones to my uncle's farm up north.

Back then I routinely got car sick, so I remember a few times standing beside the car in the snow on some back road, in full puke mode. Hey, not every memory has to be a stupendously good one. The important thing is that they're memorable enough to lodge in your memory for the long haul.

Christmas Eve 17 years ago, when our daughter was just a year old, we stayed overnight at my



► Chances are your vehicle will be involved in some sort of memory you create during the holidays.

mother's home, the ancestral bungalow in the suburbs. As usual, the kid refused to go to sleep at the appointed time — a habit she manages to maintain to this day. When she was still screaming well past midnight, I did what all fathers do under such circumstances — buckled her into the car seat, and drove

around aimlessly until she fell asleep.

Driving around my old hometown, in the dead quiet of Christmas night, decorations and lights everywhere, daughter in the back slowly falling asleep, well ... it wasn't the worst half hour I ever spent behind the wheel.

These days we have to

make a relatively short run on Christmas Eve, about an hour door to door.

Simple, right? And with no chance of vomit?

Well, thankfully nausea is no longer in the picture, but things are far from simple. Trying not to forget and pack every present, trying to leave on time with four people with four dif-

"Not every memory has to be a stupendously good one. The important thing is that they're memorable enough to lodge in your memory for the long haul."

ferent agendas, and trying to properly secure a broccoli casserole and Greek salad somewhere in the cargo area, is exhaustive and tricky stuff.

But that's precisely why there is such euphoria when we're finally on our way. Nothing left to do but enjoy the ride, hope there is no Feta cheese disaster in the trunk, and look forward to the festivities that will soon unfold.

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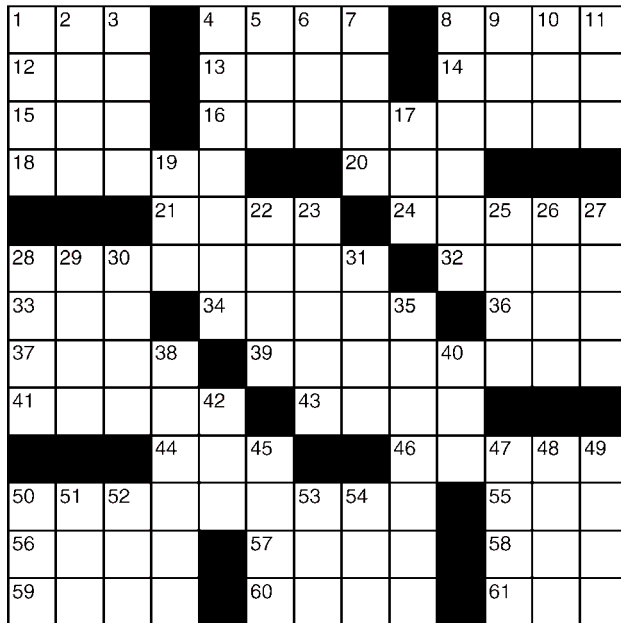
Crossword

Across

- 1 Foul
4 Supporters
8 Easter entrees
12 Actress Gardner
13 Somewhat
14 Shrek, e.g.
15 Trawler need
16 Jail
18 18th president
20 Obtained
21 Verdi opera
24 Intrinsically
28 Arab's hooded cloak
32 Clarinet insert
33 Anger
34 — Dame
36 Mr. Hammarskjöld
37 Culture medium
39 Rikki-Tikki-Tavi is one
41 Old photograph hue
43 Rules, for short
44 Have
46 Cowboy's greeting
50 1984 movie remade in 2011
55 Fish eggs
56 Inlet
57 Met melody
58 The whole enchilada
59 Burn some
60 Drove
61 Energy

Down

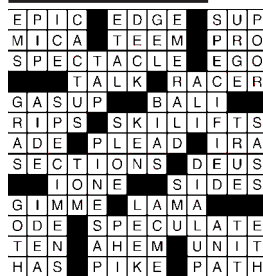
- 1 Gunshot sound
2 State with certainty
3 Information
4 Clique
5 Lawyers' org.



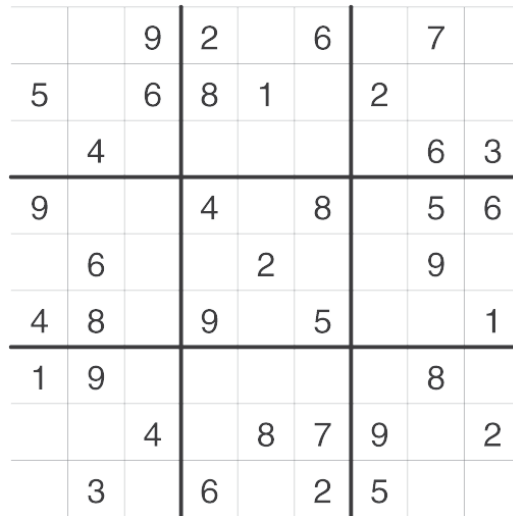
- 6 Zero
7 Sans escort
8 Owl, at times
9 Past
10 "— Doubtfire"
11 Catch a glimpse of
17 Jazz style
19 A Bobbey twin
22 Dire prophecy
23 Titanic VIP
25 Start over
26 Red and Black
27 Lip
28 Diagonal
29 Press on
30 Harvest
31 Coastal flier
35 Highbrow
38 Hooligan
40 Bear, in Barcelona
42 Piercing tool
45 Biblical boatwright
47 Finish a film shoot
48 Clinton's 1996 opponent
49 Shriek bark
50 Media watchdog org.
51 Reaction to fireworks
52 Eggs in a lab
53 Raw rock

54 Round Table address

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►

3	7	2	5	4	1	8	6	9
1	8	6	2	7	9	5	3	4
4	5	9	6	3	8	7	1	2
8	3	7	9	5	2	6	4	1
2	9	1	4	8	6	3	7	5
5	6	4	3	1	7	2	9	8
9	4	8	7	6	5	1	2	3
6	1	3	8	2	4	9	5	7
7	2	5	1	9	3	4	8	6

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You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

A Spaceman, Consumption has begun and I am your guide. Together we unlock the secrets of the stars. Your signal is fading. You are... my love. **A NIGHT OWL**

My Prince, Every morning is a wonderful morning waking up with you next to me! I love everything about you, think of you always and miss you when you gone. **YOUR DIRTY GIRL**

RJ Romeo, I miss you babe and I can't wait for you to come home to me for x-mas....I miss you and love you lots more than you'll ever know. **UR BABIEE**

Hubbxyxoxo :P , Heyy idk why ur friends saying im pissed off at chu cause im not and w.e his name is idk him i never talked to him :-btww I like you alot!!!! :P 10/04/11 **WIFEXOXOX :P**

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 It may seem as if things are going wrong and there is little you can do about it, but it's all part of a wider plan.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 If you have a well defined goal and a sensible plan, you really cannot lose.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 You need to talk over your problems with someone you know will lend a sympathetic ear.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Is that the real you the world can see? Or is it one of your masks? If it's the latter don't forget that you are playing a role.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 Look for ways to co-operate with those you work and do business with. You have wasted far too much time trying to outdo each other.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 You have become a bit too set in your ways of late and what happens today will bring that fact home.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Concentrate on the things that matter and don't waste time on each and every passing distraction.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You may feel out of touch with the spirit of the times, but is that bad?

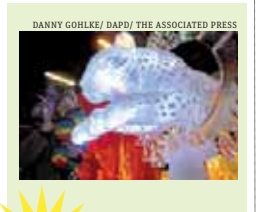
♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 After all the exertions of recent weeks, you are entitled to a little down time. Let life come to you.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 What you own and what you earn may be important to you but don't worry yourself sick about it.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you have a good idea — and chances are you have a brilliant one — get started on it now.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Don't take colleagues' negative remarks to heart because they don't mean them. **• SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest



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